

Blackberry Certification Program Summary

Blackberry nursery stock producers benefit from an aggressive and prolific research program at the University of Arkansas. The varieties generated by that research are in high demand throughout the world.

Currently, Arkansas does not have a viable program for the production of “certified” grades of planting stock. As a result, Arkansas produced nursery stock is often cast in a negative light by claims of being infected to a higher than desired level of disease, especially viruses.

In an effort to place Arkansas produced nursery stock of blackberry varieties on a level plane with stock produced in other states, these rules and regulations governing the production of certified grades of blackberry plants have been developed.

The rules establish minimum levels of genetic purity required by the different grades of ‘certified’ plants. Also, the minimum levels of isolation from other *rubus* spp. are established. Minimum standards for exclusion of virus vectors are outlined and inspection standards are established. Inspection fees are established at the level of \$50.00 per variety/cultivar entered for certification.